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ABSTRACT

The phrase "prosocial gang" may seem a contradiction but such gangs do exist. This book describes a gang intervention program, Aggression Replacement Training (ART), which resulted in reduced arrest rates among violent gangs in a large urban area. The book opens with a list of prosocial gangs followed by an analysis of the development, demographics, varying definitions, and types of juvenile gangs in America. Violence among gangs is examined, along with communities' responses to gang violence. The ART program is then introduced and its background, rationale, and procedures are described. The program's past and current effectiveness with delinquent and aggressive youths is outlined. Examined here are the daily lives of the gang members in the program, their communities, and the agency settings in which the ART program unfolded. Also described is the program's construction, its management, its context, its flow, its successes, and its failures. The emphasis is on how to help chronically antisocial youths deal with attendance indifference, participation resistance, interpersonal skill incompetence, anger, and other issues. The program's effectiveness is summarized and an examination of what lies in the future for gangs exposed to this program is offered. References, an author index, and a subject index are included. (RJM)

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